



Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE

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2nd District
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July 13, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

COMMISSION REVIEW PROCESS -- SUNSET REVIEW OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION (ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve ordinance extending the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Highway Safety Commission to October 31, 2007.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION:

On December 1, 1994, the Audit Committee submitted its initial report in response to your Board's instruction to review the effectiveness of County commissions, committees and task forces defined under Chapters I and IV of the Los Angeles County Committee Book. Consistent with your Board's instructions, the Audit Committee is submitting the results of the evaluation of the Los Angeles County Highway Safety Commission performed by the Auditor-Controller, and recommendations from the Audit Committee for further action by your Board.

The Highway Safety Commission recommends to the Board and County departments appropriate traffic control measures throughout the unincorporated portions of the County. This includes:

- Eliminate and prevent major traffic problems.
- Recommending speed regulations and traffic signals.
- Develop uniform standards for street striping; curb painting, placement of signs, reflectors, crosswalks, and similar safety devices.
- Ensure maximum traffic safety.

The Department of Public Works receives approximately 2,000 requests per year from residents for the installation of traffic control devices. The Commission serves as an appeals board for residents who disagree with Department's decision. If Department denies a request and one appeal, it notifies the resident of their right to appeal to the

Commission. At the same time, Department also notifies the Commission. During the review period, the Commission heard 39 appeals. Fifteen of these were granted, 23 were denied, and one is pending.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Each commissioner receives a stipend of \$25.00 per meeting not to exceed four meetings per month.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

The Committee was established in 1960 and was continued by Board order pursuant to Chapter 15.16 of the Los Angeles County Code, Board Order No. 11 of January 3, 1995, Board Order No. 17 of October 1, 1996 and Board Order No. 66 of May 18, 1999, Ordinance #99-0033.


The Committee consists of seven members, one nominated from each Supervisorial District, and two nominated by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors upon recommendations provided by private and parochial schools, and the Los Angeles County Board of Education.

The Commission replaced the Los Angeles County Traffic Committee, which was in existence between 1931 and 1960 and composed of representatives from the County Road Department, the State Division of Highways, the California Highway Patrol, the Automobile Club of Southern California, and the Parent-Teacher Association.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

Extending the sunset review date for the Commission will allow this body to continue offering fair and impartial review of citizen appeals and assuring rigorously effective public policy to increase safety and reduce crashes and accident severity.

Respectfully submitted,


Louisa Ollague
Chairperson, Audit Committee

LO: ml: kw

Attachment

cc: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Director of Public Works
Chair, Los Angeles County Highway Safety Commission



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

May 24, 2004

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JTM*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGHWAY
SAFETY COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the Los Angeles County Highway Safety Commission's sunset review date be extended to October 31, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Highway Safety Commission (HSC or Commission) was established by the Board pursuant to Chapter 15.16 of the Los Angeles County Code. The most recent sunset renewal was approved by the Board at its May 18, 1999 meeting. The HSC replaced the Los Angeles County Traffic Committee, which had been in existence from 1931 to 1960.

The HSC considers and investigates all requests or suggestions regarding traffic control made by the Board, the Commissioners, any officer, private person or group of persons, and submits its report and recommendations to the Board. The HSC cooperates with all other jurisdictions and agencies within the County to:

- Eliminate and prevent major traffic problems.
- Develop uniform standards for street striping, curb painting, placement of signs, reflectors, crosswalks, and similar safety devices.
- Recommend speed regulations and traffic signals.
- Ensure maximum traffic safety.

The HSC consists of seven members, five appointed by the Board of Supervisors (one from each supervisorial district) and two members nominated by the Board Chair from a list provided by private and parochial schools and the Los Angeles County Board of

Education. Commissioners are entitled to receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed four meetings per month. Two current Commissioners have elected to waive the stipend.

The HSC meets quarterly or as needed. From January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2003, the HSC held 35 meetings with an average attendance of five (71%) members. DPW estimates annual Commission expenditures of \$26,500 for staff support, stipends, and other expenses.

JUSTIFICATION

The HSC recommends to the Board and County departments appropriate traffic control measures throughout the unincorporated portions of the County. This includes recommending traffic signals, stop controls, pedestrian actuated flashing beacons, crossing guards, disabled parking zones, as well as other traffic control measures.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) receives approximately 2,000 requests per year from residents for the installation of traffic control devices. The HSC serves as an appeals board for citizens who disagree with DPW's decision. If DPW denies a request and one appeal, it notifies the resident of their right to appeal to the HSC. At the same time, DPW also notifies the HSC. During this review period, the HSC heard 39 appeals. Fifteen of these were granted, 23 were denied, and one is pending.

The Commission's goal for the upcoming evaluation period is to continue to be an appeal board for residents who disagree with traffic related decisions of the DPW.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:DR:RD

Attachments

c: Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations
Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services
Marvin W. Estey, Chair, Highway Safety Commission
Irena Guilmette, DPW, Traffic and Lighting Division

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission. **CONCUR**

Section 1. Relevancy. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

In its role as an appeals board for citizens who disagree with decisions of the Department of Public Works (DPW), the HSC fulfills its responsibility to consider and investigate all requests related to traffic control. **RELEVANT**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The HSC meets quarterly or as needed. From January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2003, the HSC held 35 meetings with an average attendance of five (71%) members. **SATISFACTORY**

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

The HSC heard 39 appeals of DPW traffic related decisions. Fifteen of these appeals were granted, 23 denied, and one is pending. **SIGNIFICANT**

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The HSC is an appeals board for citizens who disagree with decisions of the Department of Public Works regarding installation of traffic controls or modification of existing traffic regulations. **RELEVANT**

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

HSC members received a \$25 stipend for each meeting they attend, not to exceed four per month. Currently there are two members that waive their stipend.

The HSC does not have a separate budget. All Commission related expenses are paid from DPW's budget. DPW estimates annual Commission expenditures of \$26,500 for staff support, member stipends, and other expenses. **WARRANTED.**

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION TO OCTOBER 31, 2007.

HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
ATTENDANCE RECORD

Commissioner		Nominated By	3/31/99	6/30/99	9/30/99	12/31/99	3/31/00	6/30/00	9/30/00	12/31/00	3/31/01	6/30/01	9/30/01	12/31/01	3/31/02	6/30/02	9/30/02	12/31/02	3/31/03	6/30/03	9/30/03	12/31/03	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter			2	3	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	0	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	35	
Guillermo William Villalobos		1st District	2	2	0	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	29	83%
Rhett Samuel Price		2nd District	2	3	0	1	2	3	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	0	25	71%
Robert A. Ringler		3rd District						1	1	2	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	23	85%
Angelo Bufalino		4th District	2	3	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	2											19	100%
John A. Spix		4th District												1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	15	94%
Lawrence R. Adamy		5th District	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	15	43%
Roberta M. Farrell		BOS Chair *	2	3	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	2	3	1	2	1		27	79%
Thurston T. Reese		BOS Chair *																			0	1	1	33%
Marvin W. Estey		BOS Chair *	1	3	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	31	89%
Totals			9	16	0	6	9	17	6	12	18	11	0	5	6	5	12	16	11	10	11	5	185	
Average Attendance per Meeting ----->																							5.3	

* These Commission members are nominated by the Board of Supervisor's Chair and approved by the Board of Supervisors.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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August 5, 2004

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Martha Littlefield, Head Board Specialist
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Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Re: Ordinance Amending Section 15.16.090 of Chapter 15.16 -
Highway Safety Commission**

Dear Ms. Littlefield:


You have asked this office to prepare an ordinance amending Section 15.16.090 of Chapter 15.16 - Highway Safety Commission. This amendment will extend the sunset review date for the Highway Safety Commission to December 31, 2007.

The ordinance and its accompanying analysis may be presented to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration.

Very truly yours,

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

By


ADRIENNE M. BYERS
Principal Deputy County Counsel
Public Works Division

AMB:mh

Enclosure

HOA.249945.1